Rev. N. C. Burnap

Lowell June 3. 1840.

57

Dear Brother Phelps,

I understand, that you are a member of an ex parte Council at North Reading, and will probably be called there soon in a case involving the character of Brother Orcutt.

I want to apprise you of some things which may have a little bearing upon your movements. First, Mr Orcutt was a student of mine, and an inmate of my family for several months in Vermont, and for the last 6 years, I have had a familiar acquaintance with him. We have so long viewed him almost as belonging to our family. He is one of the last men on earth to suspect of any indiscretions toward the ladies. He is addicted to no such thing: and in view of all the circumstances I have not the least suspicion, that he is guilty of any such thing. It is not like him any where. The brethren around here have perfect confidence.

This attack upon him is malicious in the highest degree in the opinion of us, who have been familiar with the circumstances from the beginning, and especially in the view of his own church.

Your council have the sympathy of the moral Hoodwood of that place, who would gladly shine Evangelical religion from that place.

I say this, that you may know what company you are in there, and be in a way to understand the business.

Affectionately Yours

N. C. Burnap